



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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MEXICAN POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION

TUCSON, Ariz. - Santiago Gutierrez-Othon, 51, of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to eight months in federal prison for possession of ammunition by a non-immigrant alien.

On March 8, 2009, law enforcement officers observed Gutierrez-Othon leave a gun show at the Pima County Fairgrounds with a box of ammunition. Officers subsequently stopped his vehicle for a traffic violation. Gutierrez-Othon, a citizen of Mexico and a police officer for the state of Sonora, first denied purchasing any ammunition. When officers discovered 500 rounds of ammunition for an AR-15 rifle in the trunk of Gutierrez-Othon's car, Gutierrez-Othon admitted he had purchased the ammunition and stated that he planned to bribe Mexican customs authorities to bring the ammunition into Mexico.

This case is a result of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive led by U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, U.S. Attorney Burke is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific firearms crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation leading to the conviction was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Pima County Sheriff's Department, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The prosecution was handled by Angela Woolridge, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-09-1124-TUC-CKJ
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